

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 COME-00 AGR-20

STR-08 SS-14 NSC-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-12 CIAE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 OIC-04

CIEP-02 CEA-02 SIL-01 LAB-06 RSR-01 /168 W

----- 113188

R 211836 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9896

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03380

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: COFFEE - CONTACT GROUP ON MODIFYING ICA

REFS: LONDON 2537, STATE 49371 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY - IN ITS FIRST DAY ( MARCH 19 TH) CONTACT GROUP ( US, CANADA, FRANCE, GERMANY, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, EL SALVADOR AND OAMCAF) MADE SUBSTANTIAL AND RAPID PROGRESS IN DELETING ECONOMIC CLAUSES OF ICA. ARTICLES 27-42 WERE DELETED WITH ONLY TRACES OF THEIR SUBSTANCE LEFT BEHIND. HOWEVER, ON SECOND DAY, ARTICLE 48 ( PRODUCTION GOALS) LED TO PROTRACTED AND SOMEWHAT POINTLESS DEBATE AND PACE HAS SLOWED MARKEDLY. END SUMMARY

2. AT OUTSET CONTACT GROUP SET BRISK PACE. US PROPOSED THAT GROUP BEGIN BY DISCUSSING FIRST THOSE ARTICLES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ICA WITH CLEAR ECONOMIC CONTENT, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROVISIONS WOULD BE REVIEWED BY GROUP AT SUBSEQUENT STAGE IN ITS PROCEEDINGS. THIS PROCEDURE ADOPTED BY GROUP AND DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH ART. 27.

3. COLOMBIA PROPOSED AT OUTSET THAT PARAGRAPH 1 THIS ARTICLE BE MAINTAINED. US OPPOSED, ON GROUNDS THAT OBJECT OF EXERCISE WAS SIMPLY PROVIDE ICA WITH NECESSARY POWERS FUNCTION AS FORUM FOR RENEGOTIATION AND CENTRAL POINT FOR COLLECTION OF STATISTICS. DEBATE THAT FOLLOWED WAS BRIEF AND TO POINT. PRODUCER MEMBERS OF GROUP SUPPORTED VIEW THAT IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING REAL EARNINGS OF PRODUCERS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED IN SOME FASHION EVEN IN RENEGOTIATED AGREEMENT; OTHER CONSUMERS ( FRANCE AND GERMANY) MADE POINT THAT NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF EQUITABLE PRICES. EVENTUALLY WAS AGREED DELETE ARTICLE, BUT PRESERVE BOTH CONCEPTS IN PARAGRAPH 1 ( OBJECTIVES OF AGREEMENT). ALL MEMBERS OF GROUP AGREED WITH US INSERTING CAVEAT THAT LANGUAGE ACCOMPLISHING THIS END WOULD NEED BE SATISFACTORY.

4. ARTICLE 28 AND ANNEX A THEN DELETED, WHEN OAMCAF PROPOSED THIS AND NO ONE OBJECTED. ARTICLES 29-36 DELETED EN BLOC WHEN PROPOSED BY FRG. PARAGRAPH 1, ARTICLE 37 WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY WHEN GERMANY PROPOSED THAT IT BE MAINTAINED, BUT OPPOSITION BY BRAZIL AND COLOMBIA CAUSED GERMANS WITHDRAW THEIR PROPOSAL. ARTICLE 38 ALSO DELETED. ARTICLE 39 DROPPED, BUT ONLY AFTER BRAZIL PROPOSED AND GROUP AGREED THAT WOULD BE DESIRABLE MAINTAIN DEFINITION WHICH EXCLUDED METROPOLE SHIPMENTS FROM CONCEPT OF EXPORTS. ARTICLE 40 SPEEDILY DROPPED. ARTICLE 41 AND 42 PRECIPITATED SOME DEBATE. FRENCH DELEGATE MADE SOME REMARKS THAT WERE INTERPRETED BY BRAZIL AS SUGGESTING THAT ARTICLES BE SIMPLY

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SUSPENDED, RATHER THAN DELETED. US FIRMLY OPPOSED  
THIS CONCEPT AND BRAZILIANS DID NOT PRESS.

5. ARTICLE 43 PRECIPATED INCONCLUSIVE DEBATE. BRAZILIANS, OAMCAF AND EL SALVADOR ARGUED THAT CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN SYSTEM PROVIDED STATISTICAL DATA, ESSENTIAL IN ORDER VERIFY ACCURACY DATA SUPPLIED BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS. BRAZIL SAID THAT STAMP REQUIREMENT NO LONGER SEEMED JUSTIFIED BUT REST OF SYSTEM AND TEXT ARTICLE 43 SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CHANGED. US SAID THAT CERTIFICATES WERE CONTROL DOCUMENTS. THEY WERE ONLY SECONDARY SOURCE OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION AND NO POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION EXISTED FOR CONTINUING ELABORATE SYSTEM REQUIRING THAT EACH PARCEL OF COFFEE BE DOCUMENTED. US SAID THAT IT WOULD INSIST ON DELETION ARTICLE 43 BOTH IN CONTACT GROUP AND IN BOARD AND COUNCIL SESSIONS. GERMANY SAID IT PREPARED ACCEPT PARAGRAPHS 1-4 OF ARTICLE 43 BUT WOULD INSIST ON DELETION PARAGRAPHS 5-6 SINCE FRG WILL NOT HAVE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY EXCLUDE UNDOCUMENTED COFFEE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEE. FRANCE SAID IT WILLING ACCEPT PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2, BUT WANTED REST OF ARTICLE DELETED. DEBATE ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY, AND PROBABLY SUBJECT WILL ARISE AGAIN IN COURSE OF MEETING.

6. ARTICLE 44 ALSO NOT RESOLVED. BRAZIL SAID IT WISHED DELETE ARTICLE; US FOR TACTICAL REASONS, SAID IT WISHED RETAIN. ( FYI - FRANCE AND GERMANY INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT THEY WISHED RETENTION SINCE BRAZILIAN SOLUBLE IMPORTS BECOMING PROBLEM. END FYI)

7. ARTICLE 45 AND 46 DROPPED. ARTICLE 47 RETAINED, AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION. ARTICLE 48 PRECIPATED 5 HOUR INCONCLUSIVE AND RAMBLING DEBATE WHICH ENDED WITH DECISION PRESERVE FIRST PARAGRAPH, IN MODIFIED FORM WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY TAUTOLOGICAL. ARTICLE 49 ALSO PRESERVED, AFTER FURTHER LONG DEBATE, WITH LANGUAGE OF FIRST PARAGRAPH MODIFIED.

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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